

# NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## Minutes of Meeting April 21, 2004

A meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, April 21, 2004, in the City of Nevada City Council Chambers, 317 Broad Street, Nevada City, California. The meeting was scheduled for 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Drew Bedwell, Tim Brady, DeVere Mautino, Russ Steele, Josh Susman, Conley Weaver

Members Absent: Robin Sutherland

Staff Present: Dan Landon, Executive Director; Nancy Holman, Administrative Services Officer; Toni Perry, Administrative Assistant; Mike Woodman, Transportation Planner

Standing Orders: Vice Chairman Mautino convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: For discussion and possible action.

1. Financial Reports: March 2004

No discussion.

2. Correspondence:

A. Caltrans Division of Local Assistance - The California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)-Planning, Programming, and Monitoring (PPM) funds to the NCTC for FY 2003/04.

Executive Director Landon noted that the CTC did approve NCTC's request for PPM funds from the STIP and the \$55,000 allocation should be received in the near future.

B. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) letter to Caltrans Director Jeff Morales - Request to amend projects into the STIP.

Executive Director Landon stated that this letter from the FHWA requested that some projects be amended into the STIP. One of the projects is in Nevada County, where there is a landslide that needs to be repaired on the road that leads to the Town of Washington. This is a three million dollar project to be constructed in 2007.

F. Caltrans District 3 - Excerpts from a report entitled, "State Route 20 Safety Improvement Project Realign and Widen-Initial Study/Environmental Assessment".

Executive Director Landon stated that the SR 20 safety improvement project is to realign the highway as it enters Nevada County. The proposed environmental document is available at the Commission's office and is a negative declaration. The project is moving forward for construction in 2006.

Correspondence items H and I were articles regarding the 2001 National Household Travel Survey discussing American travel behavior. Commissioner Steele encouraged the Commissioners to read this information to get a perspective on travel behavior and to assist them in future decisions regarding transportation and transit usage. He stated that the Household Travel survey is done every six years and provides a great deal of information about how people travel, why they travel, and when they travel.

- J. City of Nevada City - Nevada City Council Committee assignments made by Mayor Conley Weaver

Executive Director Landon welcomed Conley Weaver, Nevada City's newly elected mayor, as the City's representative to the Nevada County Transportation Commission and to the Transit Services Commission.

3. Legislative Update.

Executive Director Landon stated he had provided information on legislative bills relating to transportation in Nevada County, and had included staff's recommended positions on them. After providing a brief overview of three of the bills, Mr. Landon recommended that the Commission monitor AB 557: Right of Way for Buses (Lowenthal); oppose AB 2372: State Transportation Improvement Program: County Share Reserves (Correa); and support AB 2737 (Dutra), which addresses public agency liability. He explained that AB 2372 would eliminate the ability to advance funding as part of the STIP, and could remove programmed advance funding for the SR 49 widening project, as well as, the SR 89 "Mousehole" undercrossing improvement project.

Commissioner Susman made a motion that Mr. Landon be directed to follow through on the recommended positions as presented on the legislative bills. Commissioner Brady seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Executive Director's Report.

4.1 U.C. Berkeley Institute Of Transportation Studies Traffic Safety Evaluation.

Executive Director Landon noted that the draft report on the evaluation of four intersections by the U.C. Berkeley Traffic Safety Evaluation team had been provided to the staffs of the City of Grass Valley and Nevada County for review and comment. Once the comments are incorporated into the final report, it will be presented to the Commission.

4.2. Idaho-Maryland Road/East Main Street Intersection to South Auburn/Neal Street/Colfax Avenue Intersection Frontage Road Improvements

Executive Director Landon stated that two design workshops have been held with staff from Bickett Engineering, PRISM Engineering, and City of Grass Valley to refine the design of the South Auburn/Neal Street/Colfax Avenue intersection. Bickett Engineering will have a scope of work completed by April 26th that will provide a schedule and cost estimate for the frontage road improvement project. This information will be presented to the City of Grass Valley and the Commission for further discussion.

4.3 Designation of Western Nevada County as a Non-Attainment Area Under U.S. EPA 8-Hour Ozone Standards

Executive Director Landon noted that the efforts to get the EPA to designate Nevada County as a separate non-attainment area from the Sacramento Metropolitan Region were successful. A Commission discussion ensued regarding air quality in Nevada County and what steps were to be taken to reach attainment by 2009.

#### 4.4 SR 49/Crestview Intersection/Interchange Project Development

Executive Director Landon noted funding by the two developers had been received, and the consultant, Mark Thomas and Company, Inc. was fully engaged in the project. The next team meeting will be held May 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### 4.5 Truckee SR 89/I-80 Interchange Roundabout Project Status

Executive Director Landon noted that all of the preliminary work had been delivered to Caltrans and had been approved. Once the bids and plans are completed, they will be forwarded to the Federal Highways Administration. Dan Wilkins, Truckee's Town Engineer, expects the project could be constructed before winter or at least completed in the next construction season.

Commissioner Susman stated that in spite of the fact that Truckee chose to spend its money to build roundabouts instead of traffic signals in order to retain the rural character of the community and still address circulation issues, Caltrans requirements maximizing the use of overhead signage added \$200,000 to the project.

#### 5.A. Caltrans District 3 - Project Status Report: Written report from Tom Brannon, Caltrans Project Manager for Nevada County.

Executive Director Landon stated that although Mr. Brannon could not be present, he had provided a written report, and had highlighted those projects of major interest.

- *Widening of SR 49 from the Bear River Bridge to Wolf/Combie Road:* Mr. Landon noted that the railing on the east side of the Bear River Bridge had been completed. The contractor is working on the west side on the bridge and work on the remainder of the project will begin April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Full project completion is slated for October.
- *Dorsey Drive Interchange:* Mr. Landon stated that when he had noticed Caltrans was slowing up on their efforts on the Dorsey Drive Interchange project, he presented his concerns to them and their staff is now back on track.
- *Roundabout at Gold Flat Road:* Mr. Landon noted that Caltrans had presented a public workshop on this project and had addressed Robinson Timber's concerns regarding maneuvering their large vehicles in the proposed roundabout. Caltrans traffic staff is doing an analysis of using stop sign controls as an interim alternative to the roundabout to address concerns expressed by the Nevada City Council.
- *Ramp/Frontage Road Improvements:* Caltrans is reviewing the frontage road project concept from Idaho-Maryland Road/E. Main Street down to South Auburn. Although they have not given final approval to the concept, Mr. Brannon believes Caltrans may contribute \$750,000 toward this project.

#### 5.B. SR 49 at La Barr Meadows Road Update: Ann Marie Robinson, Caltrans District 3 Liaison.

Ann Marie Robinson stated that a Highway SR 49 Safety Workshop was held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Mountain Air Mobile Park. Topics included driver safety, speeding, alcohol abuse, and transit usage. Two other workshops are to be held at Tall Pines Mobile Home Park and Forest Springs Mobile Home Park. Ms. Robinson noted that people were expressing appreciation for the Gold Country Stage driving through the mobile home parks to pick up residents. She is going to try to implement some of the changes suggested in the draft ITS report for the La Barr Meadows Road intersection. Ms. Robinson noted that the Sierra Grape Growers will be landscaping the area near the Brunswick Road intersection on Saturday.

CONSENT ITEM:

6. NCTC Minutes: March 17, 2004. *Approved.*

Commissioner Brady made a motion to approve the consent item. Commissioner Steele seconded the motion. Commissioner Weaver abstained. The motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS:

7. Election of Chair: In accordance with Correspondence Item J, Conley Weaver has replaced Kerry Arnett on the Commission, which necessitates the selection of a new Chairman for 2004.

After discussion, Commissioner Brady nominated Vice Chairman Mautino to be Chair and Commissioner Steele to be Vice Chairman of the Commission. Commissioner Bedwell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Committee Assignments:

- a. Nevada County Traffic Safety Committee
- b. Nevada County Gateway Monument Committee

Commissioner Brady volunteered to participate on the Nevada County Traffic Safety Committee.

Commissioner Weaver volunteered to participate on the Nevada County Gateway Monument Committee.

9. 2003 Triennial Performance Audit of the Nevada County Transportation Commission and the Western Nevada County Transit Operators:

Executive Director Landon stated that every three years an independent auditor is retained to audit the Commission and its transit operators as to their performance. Although Mr. Straw of LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. was not available to answer questions, Mr. Landon requested the Commission accept each of the audits by adopting Resolutions 04-10 and 04-11.

Chairman Mautino responded that some of the recommendations in the audits necessitated major changes and they should be discussed.

Referring to Recommendation #5 in the NCTC audit, Commissioner Steele questioned what type of marketing plan was envisioned to convey public information on transportation opportunities. Executive Director Landon responded that once the Five-Year Transit Development Plan was fully implemented, and Transit Services staff was ready to market the reconfigured transit services,

Commission staff would apply for Federal Transit Administration grant funding to develop marketing materials, such as schedule revisions and/or advertising on radio and/or TV, etc. Commissioner Steele suggested that transit schedules be posted at kiosks. Mr. Bill Derrick, Transit Services Manager, responded that Transit Services applied for funding through the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District for a marketing program that would include some pole-mounted displays. He welcomed an effort by the Commission to secure funding for marketing. Mr. Derrick noted that currently the shelters do not have holders for schedules, and what is posted, is usually torn down. Mr. Landon stated that typically the FTA grant applications are submitted in October, awarded in January, with the actual plan being implemented in the following fiscal year.

Commissioner Susman noted the numerous references in the audit regarding the quality and experience of Mr. Landon and his staff in dealing with local and statewide issues. Commissioner Brady stated it was a glowing report and staff should be proud of it.

\*Commissioner Weaver left the meeting at 9: 35 a.m.

Commissioner Bedwell made a motion to adopt Resolution 04-10 accepting the triennial performance audit of the Nevada County Transportation Commission. Commissioner Susman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Susman requested that staff agendize an action item on a future agenda to discuss the alternative governance issues addressed in the audits. The Commission agreed to this request.

Commissioner Brady made a motion to adopt Resolution 04-11 accepting the triennial performance audit of the western Nevada County Transit Operators. Commissioner Susman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Employee Health Benefit Compensation:

Executive Director Landon noted that due to a cost increase in the Blue Cross of California Health Plan of 9.2%, two employees would exceed the maximum health coverage provided each month. He stated there was sufficient funding in the budget and recommended that the maximum employee health benefit be increased to cover the two employees fully for the remainder of the fiscal year. He requested approval of Resolution 04-12.

Commissioner Steele moved to adopt Resolution 04-12. Commissioner Susman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rick Sanger, who lives in Grass Valley, distributed a handout to the Commissioners entitled, "Wolf Creek Community Alliance". He stated he was a member of the Executive Board of Wolf Creek Community Alliance and was present to introduce the group, explain their interests, and ask for help. The following is a synopsis of the handout that Mr. Sanger read from:

- ✓ The organization is committed to preserving, restoring, and developing Wolf Creek, which flows through downtown Grass Valley.
- ✓ A 37-year old goal of the Grass Valley General Plan was to create a network of pedestrian and bicycle trails, some of which were to follow alongside Wolf Creek.
- ✓ Some developers are talking about building trails along the creek on the property they own.

- ✓ "It would be short-sighted to pass up any opportunity we may have to connect these trails through downtown...The city maintains easements through the Holiday Inn property for future day lighting of Wolf Creek...imagine an open creek running near the downtown area".
- ✓ The Alliance is asking that the creation of a pedestrian and bicycle network be kept in mind in trying to find solutions to the traffic problems in downtown Grass Valley.
- ✓ The Wolf Creek Community Alliance would like to know of any opportunities for creek restoration or development and would like to work with the Commission to provide transportation enhancements along the creek.
- ✓ The Alliance can provide ideas, resources, and enthusiasm for development of non-motorized travel along the creek.

Commissioner Bedwell asked what Caltrans sphere of influence was on either side of the freeway near the frontage road. Mr. Landon responded that the frontage road improvements all stay within the Caltrans right-of-way and there is no intention of widening the facility.

#### COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Bedwell reported that the sign enhancement project at Kilroy's auto dismantling, which he had discussed at the last Commission meeting, had been put on the shelf.

#### SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING:

Executive Director Landon noted that the next Commission meeting was scheduled to be held on May 19<sup>th</sup> in the Town of Truckee. However, the Nevada County Transit Services Division would like to hold a public hearing regarding potential transit modifications for western Nevada County.

Chairman Mautino responded that the public meeting should be held in western Nevada County since it would be difficult to arrange transportation for the public to go to Truckee.

The Commission agreed to hold the meeting at the Nevada County Board of Supervisors Chambers in Nevada City on Wednesday May 19, 2004, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Mr. Jerry Mehren, a member in the audience, asked that the agenda be posted on the bus.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Chairman Mautino adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy D. Holman, Administrative Services Officer

Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
DeVere Mautino, Chairman  
Nevada County Transportation Commission